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8. — 1. *A Treatise on the Tactical Use of the Three Arms, Infantry, Artillery, and Cavalry.* By FRANCIS J. LIPPITT, late Colonel Second California Infantry, and Brevet Brigadier-General U. S. Volunteers. New York: D. Van Nostrand. 1865. 12mo.
2. *A Treatise on Intrenchments.* By FRANCIS J. LIPPITT, late Colonel Second California Infantry, and Brevet Brigadier-General U. S. Volunteers. New York: D. Van Nostrand. 1866. 12mo.
3. *The Special Operations of War, comprising the Forcing and Defence of Defiles; the Forcing and Defence of Rivers, and the Passage of Rivers in Retreat; the Attack and Defence of Open Towns and Villages; the Conduct of Detachments for Special Purposes; and Notes on Tactical Operations in Sieges.* By FRANCIS J. LIPPITT, late Colonel Second California Infantry, and Brevet Brigadier-General U. S. Volunteers. Providence: Sydney S. Rider and Brother. 1868. 12mo.

THESE Treatises are well printed, and are uniform in size and binding. They are not too large for the pocket, and their contents fit them well to be companions of those who have any taste for the subjects of which they treat, or who desire to learn something of the profession of the soldier. The work of preparing them has been extremely well done, so well, indeed, that one is not surprised to learn from the dedication of one of the volumes that the author was once a pupil of the accomplished Professor Mahan, of West Point. Their merit has been readily recognized in high quarters in this country, and they have been sold to some extent in England.

They were composed in the second and third years of our late war, in the form of lectures for the instruction of the regimental officers under the command of the author. The second Treatise is an improvement upon the first, though that is good, and the third, without being, perhaps, a better piece of work than the second, is much more interesting and attractive, as a text-book on astronomy is more agreeable reading than one on algebra.

There are two classes of persons who ought to read these books. The officers of the Regular Army constitute the first class. It would probably do no harm to the graduates of West Point now serving in the cavalry and infantry to revive the knowledge they acquired at that institution by an occasional resort to General Lippitt's Treatises. But the army of the United States is not now officered exclusively, or even mainly, by graduates of West Point. A glance at the Army Register is sufficient to show that more than half of the line officers of artillery, and more than nine tenths of the line officers of cavalry and

infantry, now in service, have been appointed from civil life. Most of them are assigned to duty at such posts that they have no inconsiderable amount of leisure at their disposal. They could hardly do better than to devote a portion of it to making themselves familiar with the contents of these books. As a rule, they owe their appointments to good service performed by them as volunteers. With the practical knowledge thus acquired, they would find it easy to master all that General Lippitt has set down, and with such additions to their attainments they would take a long step from the rank of efficient soldiers to that of accomplished officers.

The second class is composed of that considerable portion of the community which is made up of those who, whether they have served or not, have been led by the late war to take an interest in the principles of the military art and the application of those principles. Few of those who belong to this class are so well instructed that they would derive no profit from reading these volumes. The great majority would do well to read them carefully and consult them frequently. Newspapers and books have made them familiar with the principal events of our campaigns, and perhaps their reading has extended so far as to embrace the campaigns of Napoleon, or even those of Marlborough and Frederick the Great. From such reading they acquire a large knowledge of facts with but little knowledge of principles. They know that this or that battle was won or lost, that this or that place was besieged and taken or besieged in vain, and that so many men, under such and such generals, were engaged on each side, and they know little more. By an attentive reading of General Lippitt's concise, well-written, well-arranged books, they may acquire a clear insight into the unsuspected causes and reasons of many events with which they are perfectly well acquainted. By drawing his illustrations freely and aptly from the history of the late war of secession, the author has invested them, and especially the Treatise on Intrenchments and that on the Special Operations of the Art of War, with a peculiar freshness and interest for American students and readers. There is no padding in his books, they are thoroughly compact and business-like, and a familiarity with their contents tends directly to produce clear ideas and correct views. They deserve a cordial welcome, and it is to be hoped that they will receive it.